

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

DHA-02 ORM-01 AID-05 SCCT-01 /072 W

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R 051446Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6200

INFO USUN NEW YORK 1723

CONFIDENTIAL ADDIS ABABA 10739

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJ: SAFETY OF IMPERIAL FAMILY AND POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: STATE 209447

1. EMBASSY IS GETTING MANY REPORTS AND RUMORS OF IMPENDING ACTIONS AGAINST IMPERIAL FAMILY MEMBERS AND POLITICAL PRISONERS FROM PREVIOUS REGIME. THESE ARE BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY AND RANGE FROM ALLEGED PLANS FOR RELEASE, THROUGH PRISON SENTENCES, TO EXECUTIONS OF SOME. WE HAVE HAD MANY SUCH ALARMS BEFORE THAT HAVE PROVED FALSE. IN PRESENT TENSE ATMOSPHERE ON EVE OF SEPT 13 ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCES, AND IN WAKE OF DEATH OF EMPEROR, SUCH REPORTS AND RUMORS ARE NATURAL AND UNDERSTANDABLE. HOWEVER, IN LIGHT INTENSITY OF RUMORS, AND ALSO OF DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTION REFTEL, AMB MADE ORAL DEMARCHE ON SUBJECT.

2. AMB CALLED TODAY ON LIJ MIKAEL IMRU (PREVIOUS PRIMIN AND FONMIN, NOW POLITICAL ADVISER TO PMAC CHAIRMAN TEFERI BANTE) AND MADE FOLLOWING ORAL STATEMENT: BEGIN QUOTE THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN WASHINGTON HAS RECEIVED EXPRESSION OF CONCERN, AND SO HAS THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN ADDIS ABABA, THAT THERE MAY BE EXECUTIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE FORMER IMPERIAL FAMILY AND POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO WERE FIGURES IN THE FORMER

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GOVERNMENT. WE REALIZE THAT SIMILAR REPORTS AND RUMORS THAT

HAVE CROPPED UP IN THE PAST HAVE TURNED OUT TO BE UNTRUE.  
HOWEVER, MY GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED ME TO REITERATE THE VIEW THAT  
WE HAVE EXPRESSED TO YOUR GOVERNMENT BEFORE, THAT SUCH EXECUTIONS  
WOULD NOT BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR VIEWS OF HUMANITARIAN  
PRINCIPLES, AND WOULD HAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR BILATERAL  
RELATIONS WITH THE EPMG. THE INTENT OF BOTH THE  
EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND THE CONGRESS IS CLEAR IN SUCH HUMANITARIAN  
MATTERS, AND U.S. LAWS, AS WELL AS IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IN  
AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION, WOULD BE AFFECTED BY ANY SUCH  
EXECUTIONS.

END QUOTE

3. LIJ MIKAEL SAID HE WOULD BRING STATEMENT TO ATTENTION OF  
CHAIRMAN TEFERI AND OTHER MEMBERS OF PMAC. HE ADDED THAT HE  
KNEW OF MANY RUMORS CIRCULATING NOW, BUT IT WAS HIS HOPE, AND  
THAT OF MANY OTHERS, THAT THERE WOULD BE RELEASES OF PRISONERS  
RATHER THAN THE RUMORED EXECUTIONS.

4. EMBASSY HOPES ADDRESSEES WILL NOT RPT NOT TELL CONCERNED  
ETHIOPIANS THAT AMB HAS MADE DEMARCHE ABOVE.

HUMMEL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PHYSICAL SECURITY, POLITICAL PRISONERS, THREATS, DEATHS, POLITICAL LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 SEP 1975  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ADDIS10739  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750308-0550  
**From:** ADDIS ABABA  
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**Line Count:** 82  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 209447  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SAFETY OF IMPERIAL FAMILY AND POLITICAL PRISONERS  
**TAGS:** PINT, ET  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006